

WHO ARE YOU?

Have you ever met someone at a party or other networking opportunity who asked, “What do you do?” or “What keeps you busy?” I’m sure you can provide at least a 20 minute dissertation for your answer. Your response will either turn-on or turn-off the questioner. It will depend on your intention or their interest. But, have you ever been asked, **“Who Are You?”** Probably not! I’ll bet you can convey a pretty good impression of who you are during a job interview. Why? It’s because you are able to rehearse your answers ahead of time. There is no rehearsal for life.

Suppose you were asked the same question but were prevented from stating anything that might be on your resume. You could not give your name, where you live, where you were born, what company you work for, what your job is, what college you attended, what you majored in, whether you are married, have children, or what role you play in society.

I’m not asking you to do anything I have not done. It was difficult for me and I suspect it will be difficult for you. It takes a lot of soul searching and hard work. I realized that who I am had nothing to do with my career choices, my titles, or how much money I earned. I am so much more.

Society, our families and friends tend to define us in terms of who we know, what we wear, what we drive, and our net worth. An intuitive but anonymous scholar said, “The real measure of our wealth is our worth if we lost all our money.”

Take a notepad and see how much you can write in five minutes about yourself without referencing any of the things mentioned above. You will see immediately how difficult and challenging it is. You might not come up with anything for a minute or two.

The truth is that who you are is much bigger and far more important than what you have or what you do. We must begin to define ourselves in terms of who we are inside. This definition separates us from wealth, power, and what we do to earn a living. It ceases to be a matter of what we **do**. It becomes a question of who we **are**. In other words, we become defined by our authenticity.

“Sometimes the best way to figure out who you are is to go to a place where you don’t have to be anyone else.” Unknown

So, the question that you must face sooner or later is: **WHO ARE YOU?**

I welcome your comments.

Phil

Phil Parker, a former CEO and successful businessman, is a speaker and author. His book, *Kiss Yourself Hello! From A Life Of Business To The Business Of Life* encourages his readers to discover the possibilities before them and the potential within them. His second book, *The Gift of Perspective~Let My Hindsight Be Your Foresight* shares his lessons learned. Visit Phil online: www.philparker.com or email him at: phil@philparker.com or contact him at 888-489-9393

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